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km. from the mainland, this island enjoys many of the features of an insular climate. February, the coldest month, has a mean temperature of only $1^{\circ}34$ C., and the lowest temperatures of the winter seldom exceed -8° C. This is much milder than the climate of the mainland, but less genial than that of the southern coast of England. Notwithstanding the favorable temperatures, many plants are injured by the severe and incessant winter winds, and by the lack of a protective covering of snow. KUCKUCK describes his results in detail, indicating the successful culture in the open of a large number of species, including such plants as *Pittosporum Tobira*, *Camellia japonica*, two species of *Fuchsia*, and various opuntias. Perhaps the most noteworthy of them is the fig, *Ficus carica*, which has been cultivated on the island for thirty years, attains a height of 4.5 meters, and matures fruit regularly. KUCKUCK considers in general that the winds are more hostile to plant life than the frosts, and believes that other species might prove hardy if they could be given soils better suited to their requirements.—H. A. GLEASON.

Twining.—NIENBURG³⁷ has made a detailed study of the nutation movements of young twining plants in their early stages of circumnutation. He believes that all the circumnutation and twining movements can be explained by the joint action of autonomic nutation and negative geotropism. He also believes that he has entirely disposed of NOLL's conception of lateral geotropism. A careful analysis of his results, however, shows that lateral geotropism will also explain all movements he describes, with the possible exception of one on the centrifuge. The strongest evidence for NOLL's conception was gained from the use of the centrifuge, and now with a slight alteration of the position of the plant NIENBURG obtains results on this instrument that seem to disprove NOLL's conception. NIENBURG's centrifuge experiments have their main value, however, in showing the need of further centrifuge studies in this field.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

Amphibious polygonums.—A recent paper very plainly shows that extensive experimental cultures will be necessary before the taxonomic and ecological relationships of the various species of *Polygonum* can be settled. NIEUWLAND³⁸ distinguishes at least three closely related species of this interesting genus which exhibit both an aquatic and a terrestrial form, but adds no experimental data to our present scanty fund. The species described vary so much in response to varying conditions of habitat that it seems possible that all these forms, with intermediate gradations, might be produced from the same stock by careful methods of culture. An interesting historical résumé of the litera-

³⁷ NIENBURG, WILHELM, Die Nutationsbewegungen junger Windepflanzen. Flora 102: 117-146. 1911.

³⁸ NIEUWLAND, J. A., Our amphibious Persicarias. Amer. Midland Naturalist 2: 1-24. 1911.